The Multispecies Salon
Environmental Humanities Dialogues
presents
Pets as Flexible Persons

Featuring a discussion with Peter Singer (Princeton University) and Lori Gruen (Wesleyan University) and with Shir Dafna (Ben-Gurion University) as a virtual guest.

October 8, Thursday
Lunch & discussion: 12:30pm-2:00pm, Guyot 100

The term "Flexible Personhood" brings together the notions of flexibility and personhood. The western sense of personhood takes the division between 'human' and 'nonhuman' as fundamental. According to this perception, 'person' is a subcategory of 'human', that is, one must be human in order to be regarded as 'person'. Yet, regarding animals as persons can expand possibilities for understanding interconnectedness, as animals provide emotional outlets, form new bonds, and enable humans to practice, rehearse, and experience other relationships. Animals' roles in the home and the family can change. In certain cases, the pets are removed from the household or given away. As “flexible” persons, animals can be loved as family members, even as children, but at the same time abandoned or abused. This event will add the letter P (for Personhood) to the ABCs of Multispecies Studies, an on-line compendium for an emergent field.

Please register online to receive reading materials for this event @ http://www.princeton.edu/pei/events/multispecies-salon/